Visit of Indian delegation to South Africa

3079. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Indian delegation has visited South Africa recently; and

(b) if so, what was the purposes of the visit stating the details of the matter discussed with the South Africa Government and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism led a tourism delegation to South Africa in the month of January, 1994.

(b) The visit was to generate closer interaction between the travel trade and the travelling public in South Africa and the Indian travel industry. It was also intended to generate confidence in India as a safe and attractive destination. The programme comprised of an India Evening' presentation jointly organised by Air India and the Department of Tourism. The audience included 450 prominent people from travel trade and hotel industry, Indian community, African National Congress and South African Government. The Minister had meetings with important dignitaries such as Dr. Nelson Mandela, President, ANC, Dr. Ranchod, Minister for Civil Aviation and Shri Van Hoven, Chairman, South African Tourism Board.

Pdojosal for upgradation of Air India

3080. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade Air India on priority basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof, with steps to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether these steps will not make any structural changes within the airlines even after the repeal of the Air Corporation Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Air-India propose to take some measures to face the circumstances if an Open Sky policy of Government is implemented; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (f) Air India has taken steps to meet international competion by adopting a consumer oriented strategy by providing value added service to passengers. Upgradation to passenger facilities both on air and on ground, tition by adopting a consumer oriented indtction of new B-747-400 aircraft are some of the steps taken in this regard. In order to improve i's market access, Air India in going to introduce a compu er reservation system in India, jointly with Indian Airlines. New destinations like Johannesburg, Durban, Dar-E-Salam and Jakarta have been added to Air India's net work during 1993. Air India is also planning to start services to more stations subject to an agreement between the two countries. Recently, hub and spoke operations have been introduced from Amritsar, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad thereby offering access to passengers to these points both on the outward and inward journeys. The emphasis is on better passenger satisfaction.

Utilisation of Dornakal Airport in Andhra Pradesh

3081. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO; Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will draw up a plan to utilise Dornakal and other unused and under utilised airports in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what incentive will be extended to airlines to use such airports like Dornakal in Andhra Pradesh?